



April 8, 2015

The Honorable Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
458 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Heller and Bennet:

Historic preservation services have been the key focus of the Collaborative inc (TCI) since its inception in 1974. The firm has provided a wide range of historic tax credit services as well as design services for the rehabilitation of more than 1,700 historic buildings, including hundreds of structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Community support is a vital aspect of historic preservation. The Collaborative has served as a catalyst by presenting the role that preservation can play in revitalizing older structures and neighborhoods within a community.

With respect to our firm's particular experience with historic tax credits, we undertook our first tax credit project in 1982-1983. Back then, we used the tax credits as co-developer of an historic hotel in Central City, leading to our development of (Extension of effect) the Association of Historic Hotels, the progenitor (1989) of Historic Hotels of America by the Trust. In addition, we have completed Multiple Tax Credit projects for others, as we are Historic Architects, Architectural Conservators, and Architectural Historians, continuing today.

The Historic Tax Credits have been America's most effective federal program at revitalizing our historic legacy buildings, and our core cities. For example, as we the people recognized that we had polluted our rivers, almost beyond the brink of recovery, and the Clean Water Act was passed, suddenly the historic textile mills of the entire region of New England were no longer viable. The six states saw a flood of old mills along the waterways become vacant. The Historic Tax Credit incentivized the development process, leveling the playing field in order that these legacy buildings stood a fair chance to be preserved, and when renovated stand on their own two feet as contributing members of their economies.

This story has been repeated all over the country. No community wants vacant buildings taking down the feel of their community and its economy. A thriving community is in large part based on how it feels and appears, with active occupied and contributing structures. The Historic Tax Credit has revitalized community after community throughout our land, and there are many more opportunities in these communities and others by which the Tax Credit will continue to re-energize our communities and economies. Finally we get a federal government program that is powerful and of widespread and significant positive effect, and someone wants to eliminate it? It is simple: do not mess with success, build on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John D. Feinberg".

John D. Feinberg

